

# ABSTRACT

5 A gear case 15 forming a lower part of a marine propulsion machine is provided with a gear chamber 15a for housing a bevel gear mechanism 22 for transmitting power from a drive shaft 21 to a propeller shaft 24. The gear chamber 15a is connected to the bottom of a vertical drive shaft receiving bore 15b formed in the gear case to receive a drive shaft. The gear case 15 is provided with a vertical shift rod receiving bore 15d parallel to the drive shaft receiving bore 15b and having an open upper end. A connecting hole 15i is formed in the gear case 15 to connect respective upper parts of the drive shaft receiving bore 15b and the shift rod receiving bore 15d. A covering member 80 covers the upper open end of the shift rod receiving bore 15d. A shift rod 27 is passed through the covering member 80 into the shift rod receiving bore 15d. The covering member 80 has upward bulging walls defining pressure-compensating chambers 82R and 82L. Thus, the covering member 80 attached to an upper part of the gear case 15 and serving as a pressure-compensating structure reduces the number of parts and man-hours necessary for assembling the gear case assembly, and reduces the cost of the gear case assembly.

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